

CLAIM AMENDMENTS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) A generally oval battery including a battery case having a generally oval cross section, a generally oval sealing plate including a pair of linear parts opposite each other and a pair of circular parts opposite each other forming a generally oval shape and forming locations where the linear parts join the circular parts and the shape of the sealing plate changes from a circular part to a linear part and from a linear part to a circular part, and an electrode plate assembly, said sealing plate having a U-shaped cross section, and said battery having a thickness of 4mm or more and an aspect ratio of 3 or more, wherein ~~a location~~ the locations where the shape of the battery case changes from a circular part to a linear part or from a linear part to a circular part in an interface between said battery case and the sealing plate acts as a point where breakage occurs for discharge of gas.

2. (Previously Presented) The generally oval battery according to claim 1, wherein said battery case is tubular with open ends.

3. (Previously Presented) The generally oval battery according to claim 1 ~~or~~ 2, wherein said battery case and said sealing plate are joined together by welding.

4. (Previously Presented) The generally oval battery according to claim 2, wherein said battery case and said sealing plate are joined together by welding.